

*Blue Dogs urge the Senate to join House in restoring fiscal discipline to the federal government*  
July 22, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, for the first time in over 10 years, the House voted to give pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules the force of law, a move that would bring a level of fiscal discipline to the federal government not seen since Congress balanced the budget in the 1990's. Passage of the "Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2009" not only represents an unprecedented step forward in the Blue Dogs' fight to restore fiscal responsibility and accountability to the federal government, but also demonstrates the Democratic Congress' commitment to putting an end to the wasteful deficit spending that had become the status quo in Washington throughout the previous administration. *Blue Dogs urge the Senate to join House in restoring fiscal discipline to the federal government*  
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Yesterday, Congressman Melancon spoke in support of the PAYGO legislation on the floor of the House of Representatives. [Click here](#) to watch his speech. The text is also below.

**"The interest we already pay each year on the national debt is more than we spend on education and veterans combined. The sooner we put PAYGO into place, the sooner we will have this money to invest in our priorities," said Representative Charlie Melancon (D-LA), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. "We have an obligation to our children and grandchildren to see that this critical piece of legislation reaches the President's desk."**

The PAYGO law will push Congress to prioritize essential investments and cut wasteful spending and subsidies. This law requires tough choices: the cost of any spending increase or tax cut has to be paid for, rather pushed onto future generations. Those who want to cut taxes will have to identify what spending we will have to do without because of that lost revenue. Likewise, PAYGO will control spending, because any increase in spending will have to be offset by spending decreases elsewhere, or by higher taxes.

"Today marks the culmination of years of hard work by the Blue Dogs on this issue," said Representative Baron Hill (D-IN), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Policy. "And, it marks a critical first step in addressing our fiscal health. I would also like to thank our Democratic leadership and President Obama for their support. Without it, today would not have come to fruition."

PAYGO, the same proven effective budget enforcement tool that was implemented with

bipartisan support in the early 1990's, has been a top priority of the Blue Dogs for over 15 years.

"If we fail to get our fiscal house in order, our international creditors will do it for us, and we will lose our economic freedom," said Representative John Tanner (D-TN), a founding member of the Blue Dogs and a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. "In 2000, our budget was in balance; expenditures and revenue were each around 19% of our gross domestic product (GDP). Throughout this decade, however, our expenditures have increased, and our revenues have declined. That policy is not sustainable, and we must close the gap if we want our children and grandchildren to have the financial and economic opportunities they deserve."

The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. Currently there are 52 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the [Blue Dog Website](#).

### **Statement by Rep. Charlie Melancon on Statutory PAYGO Legislation**

U.S. House of Representatives, House Floor  
July 21, 2009

If we do not begin paying our bills today, we will continue to short-change future generations who will face higher taxes and cuts to federal investments in priorities such as education, health care and national security.

In order to ensure our long-term fiscal sustainability, we must all work together to return to the proven-effective pay-as-you-go rules that brought our federal budget to balance in the 1990's.

We now have a President who is committed to changing the fiscal course of this country. Together, we are committed to putting an end to the reckless fiscal policies and out of control spending of the past that have given us the record deficits we see today.

To that end, the President has charged Congress with passing statutory PAYGO, and we have an obligation to see that this critical piece of legislation reaches his desk.

Our federal government simply cannot continue to live beyond its means, mortgaging our future on the backs of our children and grandchildren. Reinstating statutory PAYGO will send a message to the American people that their government is serious about putting the country back on stable economic footing.

The time to act is now. The President has put his words into action, and I look forward to working with the Blue Dogs, and my other colleagues in the House and Senate, to make statutory PAYGO a reality.

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